



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report**

30 January 2013 – 27 February 2013

28 February 2013

Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) Table of Contents

- 1. (U) Scope Note**
- 2. (U) Summary**
- 3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**
- 4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
- 5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**
- 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**
- 1. (U) Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) PERU: On 27 February a tanker experienced an attempted boarding at the Talara Anchorage.
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 February a passenger boat was boarded and personnel kidnapped in the Ibaka Channel, Calabar River.
3. (U) OMAN: On 25 February, a merchant ship reported a suspicious pass by one skiff in an area approximately 15 nautical miles north of Masirah Island, Oman.
4. (U) COLOMBIA: On 24 February a tanker was boarded at the Cartagena "A" Anchorage.
5. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 22 February a cargo ship was fired upon at 2308N – 06049 E, approximately 130 nm southeast of Muscat, Oman.
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 February a cargo ship was fired upon and endured multiple attempted boarding's approximately 30 nm south-southwest of Brass.
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February a tanker was boarded at the Teluk Semangka Anchorage.
8. (U) BANGLADESH: On 18 February a tanker was boarded at the Chittagong "C" Anchorage.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February and March 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for February and March 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-299), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for February and March 2013. For Further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for February and March 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammail.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for February 2013. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru or Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN:** No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA:**

1. (U) **PERU:** On 27 February a tanker experienced an attempted boarding at 04:34 S – 081:18 W, at the Talara Anchorage. Two robbers in a small motorized boat attempted to board an anchored tanker via the anchor chain. Alert duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the duty

officer who raised the alarm and sounded ship's whistle. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted the attempt and moved away. (IMB)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 24 February a tanker was boarded in the vicinity of 10:18 N – 075:31 W, at the Cartagena "A" Anchorage. Four robbers boarded an anchored LPG tanker via the anchor chain and hose pipe. The robbers caught and tied up the duty AB who had sighted and shouted at them. The robbers broke into the fore castle store and escaped with ship property. (IMB)

D. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

G. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 February a passenger boat was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 04:37 N – 008:22 E, in the Ibaka Channel, Calabar River. Passenger boat was attacked and boarded by approximately 20 armed pirates in 2 speedboats. The pirates boarded the vessel and reported to have kidnapped 1 person. The vessel continued to port. (OCEANUS)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 February the cargo ship KOTA BAHAGIA was fired upon and endured multiple attempted boarding's at 03:51 N – 005:57 E, approximately 30 nm south-southwest of Brass. About six pirates armed with automatic rifles in a skiff launched from a mother vessel, chased and fired upon a general cargo ship underway. Master raised alarm, activated anti piracy preventive measures, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers, and non essential crew took shelter in the citadel. The pirates attempted to board the ship several times and then aborted the attempt due to the hardening measures taken by the ship. Incident reported to MRCC Nigeria. No injuries to crew but the ship sustained some damage due to the firing. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 February the tug ARMADA TUGAS 1 was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 03:57 N – 005:20 E, approximately 40 nm west-southwest of Brass. An offshore tug was attacked and boarded by pirates. They boarded the vessel and kidnapped 6 officers to include the Master, Chief Officer, Second Officer, Chief Engineer, Second Engineer, and ETO. The 6 crew members are comprised of a Russian national, 2 Indians and 3 Ukrainians. The remaining 12 crew members were unharmed and there was no damage to the vessel. Remaining crew and the vessel were escorted back to Port Harcourt. (IMB, IMO, AP)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 February the bulk carrier AFRICAN JOY was boarded at 06:27 N – 003:23 E, at Berth No.2, Apapa, Lagos. Robbers in a wooden boat approached a berthed bulk carrier. One robber boarded the ship, broke into the forward store, and stole ship's stores, to include 4 drums of paint. Duty crew noticed the robber and raised the alarm. The robber escaped with the stolen stores. (IMB, IMO, AP)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 February the general cargo ship SAFMARINE SAHEL was fired upon at 04:06 N – 006:52 E, approximately 10.5nm Southwest from Bonny river fairway buoy. While

the cargo ship was underway, it noticed a speedboat approaching from portside containing four pirates. The skiff came alongside and the pirates attempted to board the vessel. Evasive maneuvers were utilized such as increasing speed, raising the alarm, and all crew mustering on the bridge. Pirates launched gun fire on the vessel's superstructure. The vessel was able to evade the pirates, but was pursued for approximately 20 minutes, before the pirates aborted the attempts at boarding the vessel. (IMB, IMO)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 February the cargo ship WALVIS 7 was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 03:33 N – 006:35 E, approximately 45nm off Bonny River. Twelve heavily armed pirates approached, fired upon, and boarded an offshore supply vessel underway. Alarm raised and most of the crew retreated into the citadel. Pirates stole ship and crew cash, along with personal effects. Prior to escaping, the pirates caught and kidnapped the Chief Engineer (Ukrainian) and Master (Honduran). The remaining 18 crewmembers along with the vessel arrived safely at the port. (IMB, IMO, AP)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 07 February the general cargo ship ESTHER C was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 03:40 N – 005:53 E, approximately 40nm South-Southeast of Brass. Approximately 17 pirates armed with AK47 rifles attacked, boarded and hijacked the offshore supply vessel underway and attempted to use it as a mother vessel. Prior to the vessels release on 11 February, pirates stole ship's stores and equipment, damaged communication equipment, and kidnapped 3 crew members, prior to escaping. (IMB, IMO, AP)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 06 February a tug with barge in tow was fired upon in the vicinity of 05:10 N – 006:12 E, along the River Forcados at the Angiama Community area of Bayelsa state. Pirates ambushed the tug and barge in tow being escorted by military, while transiting from Warri to Port Harcourt. Four persons, including two soldiers, a retired naval officer, and the pilot of the tug were killed during the gun battle between the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the pirates. Two additional soldiers sustained serious injuries. Three pirates were seriously wounded by soldiers who returned fire and reportedly died soon after escaping. The reasoning behind the attack is unsure, due to neither the tug nor barge carrying any cargo. (AP)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 04 February the chemical tanker PYXIS DELTA was fired upon at 06:19 N – 003:24 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Armed persons with guns approached and fired upon an anchored chemical tanker carrying out doing STS operations. The response of the onboard naval security team resulted in the armed persons moving away. One crew member received a gunshot wound to the leg as a result of the gunfight and was evacuated for medical treatment. The crew member passed away upon arrival at the hospital. (IMB, IMO)

10. (U) IVORY COAST: On 03 February the oil tanker GASCOGNE was hijacked in the vicinity of 04:07 N – 003:54 W, approximately 70 nm south of Abidjan port. Twelve heavily armed pirates with guns boarded and hijacked the tanker underway. They sailed the tanker to Nigeria and stole the oil cargo and crew/ vessel valuables. On 05 February the tanker and her 17 crew members were released and proceeded to a safe port. Two crew members were injured during the incident. (IMB, IMO, TW)

11. (U) NIGERIA: On 31 January the product tanker OLIVIA II was fired upon at 03:46 N – 005:19E, approximately 45 nm south-southwest off Brass. A product tanker under way noticed

three skiffs approaching it at high speed. A suspected mother vessel was observed on radar at a distance of around 1.2 nm. As the skiffs closed duty officer raised alarm and non essential crew mustered in citadel. Vessel commenced evasive maneuvers and headed towards a nearby oil terminal to seek assistance from naval guard vessels. A further two skiffs were noticed approaching the vessel and all skiffs fired towards the bridge and accommodation. A RPG was also fired but missed the vessel. The attack lasted for nearly one hour before the skiffs broke off. Crew safe but vessel sustained damage due to the firing. (IMB, IMO)

12. (U) MAURITANIA: On 31 January the cargo ship DAMACO FRANZIA was boarded at 20:53 N – 016:59 W, at the Nouadhibou Anchorage. Two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored refrigerated cargo ship while the remaining six robbers waited in the boat. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed. Port control contacted but no response received. (IMB, IMO)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. OMAN: On 25 February, a merchant ship reported a suspicious pass by one skiff in an area approximately 15 nautical miles north of Masirah Island, Oman. No shots were fired but the merchant ship reported sighting weapons in the skiff. (IMB)

2. GULF OF OMAN: On 22 February a cargo ship was fired upon at 2308N – 06049 E, approximately 130 nm southeast of Muscat, Oman. (IMB)

3. (U) SOMALIA: On 18 February the cargo ship ALBA STAR was fired upon at 07:14 N - 052:17 E, approximately 150 nm east-southeast of Eyl. Two white speed boats approached and fired upon a general cargo ship underway. Onboard armed security team returned fire resulting in the skiffs moving away. (IMB, IMO, NSC, TW)

4. (U) INDIA: On 14 February the tanker ATLANTIC LATVIA was boarded at 09:54 N – 076:08 E, at the Cochin Anchorage. Three robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker. Alert duty officer noticed movement on the forecastle deck and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm and seeing crew alertness the robbers were seen jumping overboard. Upon investigation it was discovered that ship stores were stolen. (IMB, IMO)

5. (U) OMAN: On 31 January the tanker MEGACORE PANTHEA experienced a suspicious approach in the vicinity of 21:23 N – 059:59 E, approximately 33nm East of Ash Sharqiyah. Vessel sighted white skiff 3 miles on the starboard quarter. Skiff was proceeding in the same direction of the vessel with speed up to 25 knots. Ship security Guards and crew put on high alert. Speed increased to maximum and evasive maneuvers take. The skiff maintained this position for 30 minutes. Skiff altered course towards own vessel and crossed from starboard to port quarter at a distance of 1.7 Miles. Skiff maintained position on port quarter and same direction of the Vessel. Skiff altered to westerly course and proceeded at high speed. Second skiff was sighted 7 miles on starboard quarter. No approach was made. Photographs taken by High resolution camera shows two men on skiff wearing head gear. (IMO)

I. (U) PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the tanker RED RUM was boarded at 05:34 S – 104:35 E, at the Teluk Semangka Anchorage. Engine room stores were robbed from a LPG tanker carrying out STS operations. The robbery was discovered upon sailing and the ship's crew suspects the local mooring gang which had remained onboard the vessel during the STS operations. (IMB, IMO)
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the bulk carrier CS SOLARIS was boarded at 07:09 S – 112:40 E, in the vicinity of Gresik, Surabaya. A bulk carrier under pilotage and awaiting berthing was boarded by robbers who stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. Incident reported to pilot onboard who in turn reported to port control. (IMB, IMO)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the tanker ESHIPS PRELUDE was boarded at 01:23 S – 116:56 E, at the Balikpapan Anchorage. Master onboard an anchored chemical tanker carrying out bunkering operation saw two robbers on the forecastle deck with long swords stealing the mooring ropes. He raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Seeing crew alertness the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. (IMB, IMO)
4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 18 February the tanker JASMINE EXPRESS was boarded at 22:11 N – 091:46 E, at the Chittagong "C" Anchorage. After STS discharge operations, the crew on an anchored tanker while waiting for further instructions discovered that two STS mooring ropes were stolen. Coast Guard informed. (IMB, IMO)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February the container ship APL BAHRAIN was boarded at 00:08 N – 106:18 E, approximately 52 nm east-northeast of Pulau Penjantan. D/O onboard a container ship underway noticed two masked pirates on the bridge wing attempting to enter the bridge. Alarm raised and crew mustered on bridge. The pirates could not enter the locked bridge and escaped up on seeing the crew alertness. (IMB, IMO)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February the tanker STAR OSPREY was boarded at 01:42 N – 101:27 E, at the Dumai Inner Anchorage. Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker using a portable ladder. Duty A/B noticed the robbers and informed the D/O who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and informed the port control. The robbers immediately jumped overboard and escaped empty handed upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness. (IMB, IMO)
7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 February the bulk carrier KIRAN AMERICA was boarded at 22:15 N – 091:42 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain. Alert duty A/B noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the A/B with the knives and then escaped without stealing anything. It is suspected that the six shore watchmen onboard the vessel may have opened the anchor chain cover to let the robbers onboard. (IMB, IMO)
8. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 February the container ship SELMA was boarded at 20:37 N – 106:51 E, at the Haiphong Anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored container ship via the anchor chain after breaking the locks on the hawse-pipe cover. They broke into the forepeak store, stole ship's

stores, and escaped unnoticed. (IMB, IMO)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 February the tanker FORWARD FORTUNE was boarded at 01:06 N – 103:36 E, at the Nipah Anchorage. Robbers boarded a tanker carrying out STS operations, stole engine spares and escaped when crew spotted them and raised alarm. Port authorities informed. (IMB, IMO)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February the tanker TORM GARRONE was boarded at 01:17 S – 116:47 E, at the Balikpapan Inner Anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored tanker. On sighting the robbers, Master raised alarm and crew mustered. Robbers escaped with ship's stores. (IMB, IMO)

11. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February the bulk carrier STARGATE was boarded at 01:42 N – 101:27 E, at the Dumai Anchorage. Three robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier using a rope and a hook attached to a long pole. Duty officer noticed the robbers and raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and informed the local authorities. The robbers escaped empty handed upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness. (IMB, IMO)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 06 February the bulk carrier INCE INEBOLU ship was boarded at 01:41 S – 116:38 E, at the Adang Bay Anchorage. Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain. They attacked the duty crew on the forecastle, who managed to escape and raise the alarm. All crew mustered and proceeded forward. Seeing the alert crew the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in their boat. Upon investigation, it was discovered ship's stores had been stolen from the forecastle store. (IMB, IMO)

13. (U) INDONESIA: On 02 February the chemical tanker FAIRCHEM STALLION experienced an attempted boarding at 03:55 N – 098:48 E, at the Belawan Anchorage. Six robbers armed with knives in a wooden motor boat approached an anchored chemical tanker. One of the robbers attempted to board the tanker by hooking a ladder near the mid ship manifold area. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and informed the D/O who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. (IMB, IMO)

14. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 31 January the general cargo ship AAL NANJING was boarded at 14:33 N – 120:54 E, at the Manila South Quarantine Anchorage. Three robbers in a boat approached and boarded an anchored general cargo ship. Alert crew saw the robbers near the forecastle store and raised alarm. Seeing crew alertness the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Incident reported to VTMS and Coast Guard who advised to double watches and maintain proper look out. (IMB, IMO)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Oceanuslive.org (Oceanus), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)

- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 27 February 2013